

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Network management system for a computer network comprising

- a first computer system having a network management master-agent process unit installed therein;

- a plurality of second computer systems, wherein a network management sub-agent process is installed on each of the second computer systems and wherein the second computer systems are different from the first computer system and wherein each sub-agent process manages at least one managed object;

- the network management master-agent process unit having

  - a first interface being adapted to communicate with a network management software module using a network management protocol format;

  - a second interface being adapted to communicate with the network management sub-agent processes using an object-oriented interface description language format and being connected between the first computer system and the plurality of second computer systems;

- the network management master-agent process unit further comprising a converting unit for converting

  - a message according to the network management protocol format into the object-oriented interface description language format;

  - a message according to the object-oriented interface description language format into the network management protocol format.

Claim 2 (previously amended): Network management system according to claim 1, further comprising a network management software module coupled to the network management master-agent process unit via the first interface.

Claim 3 (original): Network management system according to claim 2, wherein the network management software module comprises a graphical user interface for presenting network management information to a user.

Claim 4 (original): Network management system according to claim 1, wherein the network management protocol is the Simple Network Management Protocol or the Simple Network Management Protocol Version 2.

Claim 5 (original): Network management system according to claim 1, wherein the object-oriented interface description language is the Common Object Request Broker Architecture.

Claim 6 (previously amended): Network management system according to claim 1, wherein the network management sub-agent processes are coupled to the network management master-agent process unit via the second interface.

Claim 7 (original): Network management system according to claim 6, further comprising one Management Information Base for each network management sub-agent process

wherein each Management Information Base is coupled to the network management sub-agent process;

wherein each Management Information Base is designed for specifying the structure of management information in terms of the objects to be managed (predefined variables) of an application to be monitored.

Claim 8 (original): Network management system according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the Management Information Bases is defined in the Abstract Syntax Notation code.

Claim 9 (original): Network management system according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the network management sub-agent processes comprises a further conversion unit for converting data of a Management Information Base specified by a user in Extensible Markup Language format into the Abstract Syntax Notation format.

Claim 10 (original): Network management system according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the network management agent processes is operated on a Hewlett-Packard UNIX operating system.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Computer-based method for network management for a computer network comprising

a first computer system having a network management master-agent process unit installed therein;  
a plurality of second computer systems, wherein a network management sub-agent process is installed on each of the second computer systems and wherein the second computer systems are different from the first computer system and wherein each sub-agent process manages at least one managed object;

the method comprising the following steps:

Receiving a request message in a network management protocol format from a network management software module by the a network management master-agent process unit;

Converting the request message from the network management protocol format into an object-oriented interface description language format;

Sending the converted request message in the object-oriented interface description language format to at least one of the network management sub-agent processes.

Claim 12 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 11, wherein the network management protocol is the Simple Network Management Protocol or the Simple Network Management Protocol Version 2.

Claim 13 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 11, wherein the object-oriented interface description language is the Common Object Request Broker Architecture.

Claim 14 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 11, comprising the further step of determining the subagent process from the plurality of sub-agent processes which is responsible for the request message, wherein the criterion for determining the responsible sub-agent process is an Object Identifier managed by the sub-agent process.

Claim 15 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 14, comprising the further step that data of a Management Information Base specified by a user in Extensible Markup Language format is converted by a sub-agent process into the Abstract Syntax Notation format.

Claim 16 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the network management agent processes is operated on a Hewlett-Packard UNIX operating system.

Claim 17 (currently amended): Computer-based method for network management for a computer network comprising

- a first computer system having a network management master-agent process unit installed therein;
- a plurality of second computer systems, wherein a network management sub-agent process is installed on each of the second computer systems and wherein the second computer systems are different from the first computer system and wherein each sub-agent process manages at least one managed object;

the method comprising the following steps:

- Receiving a response message in an object-oriented interface description language format from one of the a network management sub-agent processes by a the network management master-agent process unit;
- Converting the response message from the object-oriented interface description language format into a network management protocol format;
- Sending the converted response message in the network management protocol format to a network management software module.

Claim 18 (previously amended): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 17, further comprising the following steps to be carried out before carrying out the steps of claim 17:

- Receiving the value of the Management Information Base variable from the user application after it processes the request;
- Sending the response message in the object-oriented interface description language format to the network management master-agent process unit.

Claim 19 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 18, wherein the network management protocol is the Simple Network Management Protocol or the Simple Network Management Protocol Version 2.

Claim 20 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 17, wherein the object-oriented interface description language is the Common Object Request Broker Architecture.

Claim 21 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 18, wherein the Management Information Base is designed for specifying the structure of management information in terms of the objects to be managed (predefined variables) of an application to be monitored.

Claim 22 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 18, wherein the Management Information Base is defined in the Abstract Syntax Notation code.

Claim 23 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 22, comprising the further step that data of a Management Information Base specified by a user in Extensible Markup Language format is converted by a sub-agent process into the Abstract Syntax Notation format, wherein the further step is carried out before carrying out the steps of claims 18 and 17.

Claim 24 (original): Computer-based method for network management according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the network management agent processes is operated on a Hewlett-Packard UNIX operating system.